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# **ROB BEAULIEU**

A veteran musician in the Capital Region whose roads lead to Rye Bread

3

July 2023

Vol. 5, Issue 7

## NATE THE SPACE GOD

Son of Albany Lou and rising star, Nate hits home with his offerings.



### URINE

A band known for putting itself down is becoming known for laying it down.



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Reminiscing, music, and toasting Rye Bread

**Rob Beaulieu. Photo provided.** 

#### **BY ROB SMITTIX**

**RX:** I've had your name on my desk for months, so I'm finally glad that we connected. **RB:** I appreciate it.

**RRX:** So just for the back story, the abridged version... if you don't mind if you can tell us a little bit about yourself, about the bands and the music?

**RB:** I'm pretty much local, I was raised in Niskayuna. I was a hockey player, I played semi-pro hockey in Europe. I was a huge music-head, a huge music fan, like all of us. I learned to play a couple chords in college. After I was done playing hockey I decided to take that obsession and put it into music. So I got going in my mid to late twenties. I got in a Grateful Dead cover band, I had no idea what I was doing but that was a good experience. Then I ended up with a more original project. Things just started snowballing from there. I played in Kim Buckley's band, that was a really good turning point, we had a pretty good thing going for a while. I also played in Slipknot for a while, I did that for a stint. I've now been with

Raisinhead for 22 years. I've always had things that came in along the way. I've played with The Stone Revival Band. A band called Council Fire which is closer to what I'm doing now. Lots of shows with different bands and different people. It's been an amazing run. So I just put this band together, it's a little more on the Soul/R&B/Rock side of things. Very Tedeschi Trucks (kinda).

**RRX:** I love it.

**RB:** We've got a female singer (Sherry Jean Waite) and Tony Perrino on organ, Chad Ploss on drums, James Alanson Kirk on Bass and Dave Spadaro who I've been playing with for years; we started together in Stone Revival Band and we became close. We've written some stuff together and have probably been playing guitar together for almost 15 years now. So that's where we're at. I've written more songs this past year than any other year I bet.

**RRX:** Oh really? That's cool.

**RB:** I still have a few songs I've written for Raisinhead over the last year.

We're just cooking along, it seems like I'm in a good space creatively.

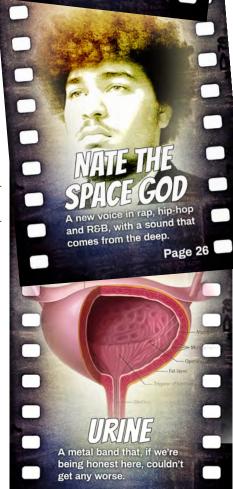
**RRX:** That's awesome man that the writing is coming along so well. That's one of the funnest parts of the process, I think.

**RB:** Without a doubt. I'm always writing but sometimes it's about finishing songs and having them at least, reasonably good. That's always the trick.

**RRX:** Right! For real. I'm sure there are more unfinished songs written in the world than completed.

**RB:** Oh my God, I have so many on my phone. All of these little ideas, literally hundreds of them. At some point I hope to go back and listen to what the hell is on there. It's probably nothing but there might be a couple of things. You know?

**RRX:** It reminds me of the Tenacious D song where they wrote a tribute to the greatest song in the world because they couldn't remember how it went. That's the cool thing nowadays that an artist of



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musician seeks Rye Bread for comfort and care.

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any type but especially song-writers can save their ideas. Years back, I wrote what I thought were the greatest lyrics I've ever written but because I wrote them on paper, I lost the melody. Then it became nothing more than words on a piece of paper. So having a phone and being able to record ideas in segments is a great tool to use.

**RB:** No doubt about it. How many things have we thought of that the next day we couldn't remember? It could've been something that was pretty good too.

**RRX:** It used to happen all of the time.

**RB:** Well I hope you find that melody.

**RRX:** I wish, it's long gone. Now the jamband scene is hands-down the greatest community scene there is. No-one pulls in heads like jambands. I like all genres, I've always liked a little piece of everything but it wasn't until I met Lucy that I really took to jam music but I'm a punk rocker at heart. I've been really vibing with the jam community these last few years, so I'm into it.

**RB:** What are the punk rock bands that you like?

**RRX:** If you talk to Art Fredette (RRX) his era of punk are The Ramones and bands like that. Of course I like them too but my era of punk is more like NOFX, Rancid, Bad Religion and bands like that. Then at the same time I was always down with 90s Hip Hop and stuff like that. I thought I hated country but then I realized that real country music is actually pretty damn good.

**RB:** F\*\*k yeah. That's the thing, it's like that water downed s\*\*t that you hear, like the country-pop, it's not that good.

**RRX:** It's friggin ridiculous. I can't get down with pop anything.

**RB:** I go in all directions. I really like Dead Kennedys, Sex Pistols, 70's Genesis and I love hip hop. If there's something that gets me, it gets me. I like sappy love songs, I love the grungiest Neil Young "Tonight's the Night," sleep under your covers kind of s\*\*t, you know? I love it for myself but sometimes it sends me in a lot of different directions simultaneously. Some people ask what's my music? I have a hard time with it sometimes, to say that it's this or it's that. It all depends on the song.

**RRX:** Why put yourself in a box, you know? I don't know about you but I've never written a song for an audience. If they like it that's cool, if not that's just what I was feeling at the time.

**RB:** Oh definitely, if you're writing for the audience man... it's sticky. You just got to write your own thing and if it's there, it's there and if it's not, it's not. You just got to make art and express yourself, the rest of it, don't worry about any of that. Maybe that's why we're not selling out Madison Square Garden.

**RRX:** Exactly, but at least we can look at ourselves in the mirror.

(Both Laugh)

**RRX:** Well what about Rye Bread man?

**RB:** Oh my God, I can't say enough about Rye Bread. I love Rye Bread, everything about Rye Bread, I love. I was not hooked up into the Rye Bread thing until about 6 or 7 years ago, maybe. I don't know exactly when it was but I'm not an OG, like my friends in Dr. Jah. I'm like second generation with Rye Bread. I've played in a number of different incarnations at Rye Bread. Nick Batto has been tremendous with me and to so many people. It's just the whole community, they come out they support, they support one another. We've done a lot of benefits for people. Everything about it is community and having fun while genuinely supporting one another. It's something I'm really happy to be a part of.

**RRX:** Yeah man and you're playing this year.

**RB:** Indeed!

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# Brian Michael Organizer of Glens Falls' GEM Fest. **BY JAMES MULLEN**

LENS FALLS - Dear reader, please allow me to set a scene for you; it's mid to late summer in the Adirondacks, and the sun is shining bright on the east end of Hometown USA as an enthusiastic and groovy crowd converges on the courtyard lawn of The Shirt Factory, a historic collection of local artisans and shops right at the heart of Glens Falls' booming Arts District. The main stage sits at the edge of the lawn right in front of the warehouse, and while the gate for this stage and the courtyard requires a ticket, the surrounding campus hosts a bona-fide, shakedown street-like collection of local artists, merchants, and food trucks selling their wares. Last year, they even had a tattoo artist doing some awesome work on site (which included a "band tattoo" session for members of Joe Mansman and the Midnight Revival Band)! Some might call Glens Falls a sleepy, small town compared to some other cities in New York and even in the 518, but I can assure you there is nothing small or sleepy about the scale of this local music and arts lovefest. I caught up with festival organizer Brian Michael and asked him some questions about GEM Fest; how it started, how it's grown, horror stories and more ahead of this year's edition, the 7th incarnation of the festival on July 21st and 22nd in Glens Falls.

**RRX:** Some have said that GEM Fest has grown into the largest local music and arts festival in this entire region; How did you get started, what was your inspiration and what's the story of that first ever GEM Fest and how it grew into a two-day event?

**BM:** Has GEM Festival grown into



the largest local music festival? I've seen a lot of people take a swing at that title! We aren't really going for that. It's been a very natural thing for us, growth wise. We are now in our 7th year of production, and what started as a single venue event concept at the now Putnam Place in Saratoga - has become an urban music festival, which is happy to bring together over 40 performing bands, a dozen highly vetted fine artists, and over 30 craft vendors. It's like a reunion at this point for us all - every year we can get together and have a great time.

**RRX:** What's been the biggest challenge in keeping GEM Fest going every year? And is there anything that's been easier than you expected?

**BM:** The hardest thing for me is the

leap of faith we take every year getting this thing off the ground. It's a lot of hours to plan, hundreds of emails, dozens of excel sheets, hiring staff/training, hospitality, contracts, etc... At the end of the day I personally feel that every year could be its last - because every single year we put everything on musician. How would you describe the line.

The easiest thing for me is the leap of faith we take every year getting this thing off the ground. GEM Festival enjoys the support of a great network of musicians, engineers, fans, and patrons. Without this network, GEM Festival would not be possible, and thanks to them we are able to say that every year the hardest part gets a little bit easier.

**RRX:** It's no secret that running a

show this big is incredibly complicated; Tell us your worst festival logistics horror story.

**BM:** My best worst logistical horror story was when I agreed to allow a bride and groom to hold a ceremony at the festival. We have a VERY tight schedule at GEM - but you cannot plan for a late bride, and butterflies! As a festival operator the fact that we ended up 30 minutes behind schedule made me want to puke - but I did actually shed a little tear once vows were FI-NALLY exchanged.

We don't do weddings anymore at GEM Festival.

**RRX:** I saw that they put up a banner across Glen Street right in downtown Glens Falls advertising the festival this year. How does it feel for the community to embrace GEM like that?

BM: If you've ever spent time in Glens Falls, I think the first thing you would realize is that we live in a supportive community in general. As someone with experience working events in other cities, all I can really say is that there is something special about Hometown USA.

**RRX:** In addition to your work as a promoter with GEM, you're also a local your band, Terrallite?

BM: I would describe my band Terrallite as a group of friends first, and a band second. I appreciate that they let me sing weird songs, and I enjoy writing riffs over their own tunes as well. We try to keep a positive vibe as a group, and we hope that positivity shows to our fans and comrades of the scene.



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# Beyond Time And Space: One Sensei's Vision

#### **BY SETH CASALE**

yond Space and Time's proprietor with a hardcore night, with a rap night. Aidan Hennessey. What I found-- be- I like to say about the Dojo is that not yond a visionary, driven young man-was really how local music and art can be a strong thread helping to bind communities. Whether through visual or performance art, comedy, or music, Aidan has applied an inexhaustible motivation to his intention to unite people despite disparate aesthetics by breaking down what a performance space is, and can be. Bittersweet this realization, however, because as you will read, this iteration of the Dojo will close soon. Perhaps it doesn't really matter, because as the name implies the Dojo is a thing not bound to a place or time, and maybe it was always Aidan Hennessey anyway.

Dolo

**RRX**: Thanks for sitting down with me today Aidan, we'll jump right in. When did you start the Dojo?

**AH:** The Dojo started back in July, we started off with a patio acoustic show. Soon after that we opened up the garage, and started doing more hardcore rock shows. We didn't really start doing more alternative, when I say alternative, I mean relative to the DIY space. We've had fashion shows and comedy shows, theater shows, and we didn't start doing those until we had the attic open, and that's when I consider the Dojo to have been opened up when we started doing that big multi-obviously those first group of shows I loved and had so much fun doing but i consider the Dojo to be that big multimedia sort of experience that you get that you maybe don't get at other DIY places. And we do all types of music

I spent some time with The Dojo Be- here, we're following a R&B night up every night might be for you but everyone is going to have their night where the music that's your thing, fits their niche, what they want to listen to.

> **RRX:** Talk to me about your background, are you a musician yourself, or simply a lover of music?

> **AH:** I grew up, my father actually had a radio show called Echoes Of Ireland sort of the lead up to St. Patrick's Day, on top of that he was always playing rhythm and blues, Billy Joel was a huge influence growing up. My big thing as a youth was performance art, which is anything you do on a stage in front of people, right, I was a theater kid and I think you can see that in the Dojo. I love the theatrics of everything. We did "Fight Night at the Dojo" which was a battle of the bands with a pro-wrestling sort of leadup. For example we cut pro-wrestling style promos for the bands, and my favorite was Proximity Crush was filming a promo against My Son The Doctor with a tagline "My Son The Doctor are only pretending to be doctors, they're lying to the community and they should just come out and say it" and we filmed a bunch of promos and for the roast battles as well, but that sort of build up that sort of theatrics on top of the actual production of the show that is where my love of it all is. In terms of the DIY space, I went to college here, I went to the happening DIY spots, and I went to the happening DIY spots at that time, it was Byrdhouse, It was Laundromat, then it was Caesar's Palace, and then I



figured it was the perfect time to start preconceptions of what can be, what the Dojo.

**RRX:** I'll drink to that.

**AH:** Hell yeah!

**RRX:** The Dojo Beyond Time and Space, where did you come up with that name?

AH: When I was a young man, 17, 18 19, I was an MMA fighter so I spent a lot of time in dojos, I'm a big lover of martial arts, and I grew up reading and watching a ton of Sci-Fi, Dr. Who, reading as much Lovecraft as I could, that sort of gothic Sci-Fi. I wanted a name that doesn't inherently mean anything, it's sort of intentional death of the author, means whatever you think it AKA@Hinderance. means. For me if I break the words apart, a Dojo is somewhere you go to hone your craft, and beyond time and space is abandoning all of our

type of show can we have, what kind of art is acceptable, just abandon those at the door when the dojo is beyond time and space.

**RRX:** You've had a lot of great shows here, do you do all the booking?

AH: No, I don't do all the booking now. For a while I did do all the booking but then my job was such that I couldn't at the time so a lot of my wonderful friends at the other DIY venues helped me out. I'll shotout out all of my wonderful collaborators, Ben Rowe, and Zeke Motzer from 2 Dead Hummingbirds, and Caesar's Palace, Peter

**RRX:** You recently celebrated an anniversary, so reflecting on that how has this experience been in versus your expectations at the outset?



**AH:** I think I knew what I was signing ing up for, I think i knew I was signing up for one of the hardest years of work of my life, and I'm incredibly blessed that I got a year of work out of it. It's hard work but the people you work with are so fantastic, and the cause of fostering local talent and art and culture is so worth it in my eyes, it's everything I wanted it to be and more, and I wouldn't want it to have gone any other way.

**RRX:** The connections you've made here with all of these groups and the name you've made for yourself in this scene, I think you're on another level of networking and you can have success going forward whether you remain in this DIY space or in any arena.

**AH:** Thank you so much! Along with networking in the DIY space, when you're having conversations and getting excited about these projects, and I consider people in the scene punks, when you come together with punks it's not like finance bros who come together there's this superficial reality between these two people, that the only thing they're interested in is money, status, whatever else people who commonly use the word networking aspire to. But when you're working with creative people you know you're coming together to make this thing whatever it is, a show, music, art, its this very holy thing where it's a union between two people, where the wedlock is this artistic creation at the end of it in which both of your souls have taken part, I would say it's much deeper than networking, you know?

**RRX:** The "Speakeasy" type of underground vibe, can you talk about the rationale for that in underground music?

AH: Both to add to the mystique, you! the exclusivity, and legality. If they F know your address, they know where to send the cease and desist order. Caesar's Palace got shut down for zoning violations, The Troy Speakeasy got shut down for running an actual

underground bar, so it's both for exclusivity, and legality.

**RRX:** Obviously as you've told me this space as it is is going to be closed down, so what's next for Aidan Hennessey? Not necessarily in concrete, but even what your hopes are, what your intention is?

**AH:** The things I have now that are concrete, I have lots of spaces that want me to book bands for them so if you want to see the creative eye of the Dojo, you'll be seeing it at Rare Form, No Fun, The War Room. We're starting the Dojo performance arts fund, it's starting as a \$2000 fund and we will be doing some fundraising, but artists can write in to us if they need funding for a project, talk to us about the specifications of the project and they'll get our help with the project and our financial backing towards whatever their approved project might be. The intangibles are setting up a recording space, with a video element, were thinking like an alternative late-night talk show. Thinking something like the Jive Hive.

**RRX:** Aidan, you've been an awesome interview, and now I will open up the floor to you, tell me about your upcoming plans, shows, intention, whatever.

**AH:** We've got our big finale show coming up, I'm crazy excited about it, I hope it's on July 15th. I'd like to say it will be here at the Dojo, but I have to say right now its TBD, so everyone keep their eyes open .

**RRX:** Thanks so much for sitting down with me, it's been truly great! Best of luck with your future endeavors, i cant wait to see what's next For Aidan Hennessey!

**AH:** You're welcome and thank you!

Follow Aidan and The Dojo Beyond Time and space on YouTube and Instagram:

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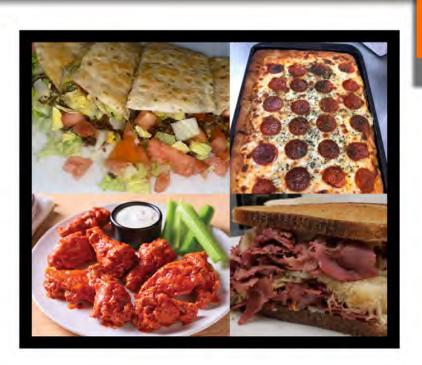
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# **Gene Sennes BY OP CALLAGHAN**

# Capital Region Timekeepers



n the early 90's my band and I found renaissance man, so without further ourselves in need of a drummer. I knew several local players, but they either had steady gig and were unavailable, or just weren't the right fit for The the drums? Decadent Royals. Fortunately, Dave Shachne and Norman Kee were familiar with the legendary Gene Sennes, a former bandmate of Dave's in French Letter. The addition of Gene on drums not only elevated our band musically, but unified us as a band. Gene's drumming is direct, precise, and without "theatrics". His restraint behind the drums is unparalleled; along with a trained ear, impeccable timing, and a musical knowledge that not only plays to the song, but supports the song and makes it better. Gene is not only a gifted drummer, but a talented songwriter, engineer and producer. Outside of music, Gene's sharp wit and gift for storytelling is infectious. He's surely a

adieu; please welcome The Drummer Of Love, Mr. Gene Sennes!

**RRX:** How did you get started on

**GS:** My father was a musician and bandleader, so when I was growing up there were always cats at the house for Musicians Union business, rehearsals or a hang. I would go downstairs during and after rehearsals, and always dug what was going on with the drums and bass. I'd go to bed at night and hear the band playing through the heating ducts.

**RRX:** Tell me about your first kit.

**GS:** A beautiful blue Rogers kit that my father bought for me. I loved it. Every time I see a Rogers kit in a drum shop, whether it's at Parkway or Steve Maxwell Drums in Manhattan, it brings me back.

**RRX:** Tell me about your blue Ya-

maha kit.

and it was stolen, along with a Pearl free floating snare, and Paiste Signature cymbals. Donnie at Parkway recently told me that he still keeps an eye out for it.

**RRX:** There's a special place in hell for instrument thieves! Who were some of your earliest influences?

**GS:** My father took me to see Buddy Rich play when I was young, that was incredible and I was pretty much awestruck at that. Some of the drummers I dig in addition to Buddy are Elvin Jones, Jimmy Cobb, Joe Morello, Matt Cameron, Roger Hawkins, Charlie Watts, John Bonham, Stewart Copeland, Danny Seraphine and Ringo Starr. I could go on and on with this question, but I won't.

**RRX:** Tell me about your first band/gig? How old were you, and where was it?

**GS:** There was a group of kids and when we were around 14-15 or so, we'd get together and jam. We ended up playing a few gigs, school dance things if I remember correctly. I ended up playing with some kids who were older and already out of school and even though I was under age the gigs were in bars.

**RRX:** Talk about your other bands, gigs, etc.

**GS:** This could get a little crazy, so I'll give you the abridged version. I recorded the demos for the Dronez album at Arabellum, that session led to playing and recording with Sara Ayers and Dennis Herbert with AKA etc. I started working with Buck Malen in French Letter and a number of his side projects. I played with Mark Gamsjager in his pre-Lustre Kings bands

and with Johnny Rabb. I started doing GS: Oh man, that was a Pearl kit sessions with Greg Krohel at the Clubhouse and at Sound Design in Brattleboro and got to work with great bass players like Sara Lee who was with the B 52's at the time and T Bone Wolk who was with Hall and Oates at the time. I got asked by Randy Ciarlante to audition for Rick Danko's band. Randy couldn't do the gig because he was touring with Jim Weider. Unfortunately Rick passed away before that happened. I played with Jonathan Richman, was in the backing band for blues cats like Snooky Pryor and Pinetop Perkins when they passed through town to play blues festivals. Pinetop was sick and couldn't play the gig so they replaced him with another cat from Muddy Waters band. I filled in from time to time with Ernie Williams and also did a few Newport gigs. I worked with Bert Sommer with Johnny Rabb and Eddie Angel when Bert was trying to get another record deal. I covered a Lark Fest gig with Ed Hamell's band on 15 minutes notice after meeting him about 30 seconds earlier. His drummer got sick just before the show, so I was on the gig. I met the rest of the band when I walked onto the stage. I didn't know any of the material so I said give me the time signature, tempo and cue me. I played with Billy C Farlow and Commander Cody. and have done gigs with Graham Tichy, Rob Beaulieu, Ian Carlton, Chris Busone, Mirinda James etc. I had played with so many bands that when I had a night off and went out the doormen at clubs thought I was playing there. Finally I settled down a little and joined the Decadent Royals, if you can call that settling down. I just recently

played with Johnny Rabb at a benefit

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in Troy with Scotty Mac and Joe Mele rivets, one of them is vintage and in the band. I've been out to sit in with Family Tree a few times, and that's just great. I plan on doing more of that. There's nothing better than hanging with friends and playing.

**RRX:** Put together your dream band.

**GS:** Ray Brown on bass and McCoy Tyner or maybe Ahmad Jamal on piano. If it was a rock thing, probably Paul McCartney on bass and Jimmy Page and Jeff Beck on guitar. I've always been in multiple bands so my dream band is multiple.

**RRX:** Tell me about your current set-up, drums, cymbals, sticks, etc. arrested? Any roto toms or gongs? Favorite heads?

**GS:** DW drums, Paiste cymbals. I've been a Paiste guy for years. I've got Paiste 2002's and Paiste Formula 602's. My nephew laid a pair of early 60's 602 hats on me that are beautiful and also a couple of 602 20" rides with

sounds great. I'm digging the rivet vibe. I use Vic Firth and Vater sticks. I use Evans UV1 coated heads. I like the bass drum wide open with just a felt strip behind the resonant head. I really think drums should ring out, so no muffling for me on any of the drums. I'm a sound man's nightmare.

**RRX:** What would you be doing if you weren't a drummer?

**GS:** My father was a bass player, so I probably would have picked that up instead. I just can't imagine not play- now? ing music.

**RRX**:

**GS:** Define arrested. A good lawyer knows the law, a great lawyer knows the judge. That's the key to avoiding legal trouble. My encounters with law enforcement have pretty much gone like this "license and registration... future. where are you playing next?"

are some local drummers that you ad- in the early to mid 60's. The tapes were mire and respect?

Dave Calarco, Matt Niedbalski, Jeff Prescott, Joe Daley, Gene Garone, Leo Kachidurian, Chad Ploss, Brian Melick, headphones and play with my father, Steve Candlen, Pete Vumbaco, Pete Sweeney, Jason Bittner, Mark Foster, Pretty cool, but here's where it gets bet-Bob Halek, and Rocky Petrocelli to name a few off the top of my head. All these cats bring something different and I always enjoy listening to them.

**RRX:** What are you working on

**GS:** I'm working on a project with Have you ever been Norman Kee, your soul brother from the Decadent Royals. We send demos of songs we've written back and forth and then get together to recut the demos we like most. We plan on recording with Dominick Campana producing, and releasing material in the near find those stolen Pearls!!

Recently I got a hold of some music Kill **RRX:** In addition to myself, who by my fathers band that was recorded

found in a closet and were in real good GS: Al Kash, Lee Harvey Blotto, shape. The guy found the reels tucked away, had them digitized and sent them to me. So I was able to put on which was an amazing experience. ter. My nephew is getting the reels, taking them to the studio and loading them into ProTools. Then we're both going to cut drum tracks. I'm really excited about this project. My father's band was dynamite so I'm going to have to put some work in.

> **RRX:** That's a great story man. What a nice find. Anything else that you would like to add?

> GS: Thanks for including me in this great series of articles, man!

> **RRX:** Always a pleasure, and let's

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#### **BY ROB SMITTIX**

Lou was your father up until it was your birthday, which was just a few days ago. Your Dad posted on social media that you (his son) was cel- to perform with your Dad. ebrating a birthday and I'm over here like oh, no way!

NTSG: You didn't know that Albany Lou is my father? That's usually what people know me for nowadays.

**RRX:** I knew your Dad's music for a long time and personally for a few years. I just had no idea that he had a son who rapped. I know it was just your birthday but may I ask how old are you?

**NTSG:** Twenty-two

**RRX:** Have you been doing any shows?

NTSG: Not yet but we do have a show scheduled sometime in the near

RX: I didn't know that Albany future. My Dad's talking to my manager about it. The whole YNUS crew is going on a tour later in the year.

**RRX:** That's dope, so you're going

NTSG: Yeah, it's going to be awesome. I can't wait!

**RRX:** Locally Albany Lou has been one of the most recognized rappers for a long time but also your Dad's getting airplay on Shady 45 (Eminem 's station on Sirius XM) constantly. HE's really making a name for himself. I mean Jadakiss did a promo with him for his birthday. Does it add any pressure? Do you feel like you're in his shadow at all?

**NTSG:** Some what but not always. I know my music is very different from my father's so I don't feel like I'm in his shadow completely. That's what I think about that.

RRX: What do they call the old about the outside world. I don't know if guys now that rap?

NTSG: Old heads?

**RRX:** Old heads, right! So being an old head myself, a lot of us don't appreciate the new stuff as much. We're all stuck in the 90's. What I really like though about you're music is that you've got a different sound man. I'm not knocking these young cats but a lot of them sound the same. A lot of them are saying the same things, a lot of them don't have good messages. When I listen to your songs, I can clearly tell you're doing something unique. It's also music that I think can vibe with different communities. Not just the rap scene but I think the skate scene would dig your sound too. You know? You've got that mass appeal.

**NTSG:** My music isn't really much

Nate the Space God. Photo provided.

you know but a lot of young rappers are always talking about stuff that's happening outside. For me, my music is very personal to myself. It's about problems I go through. I turn into a formality of stuff that other people also go through. It's relatable. You know?

**RRX:** You definitely relate. In the video where your sitting on the chair, like you're in therapy or whatever. You said something in that song about doing it you're own way. I can see that.

NTSG: That's the Scotch song. For the music video, it was cool but it didn't really represent me as a person. I literally talk about driving my 2007 Honda Civic, I don't talk about driving Bentleys or super expensive cars. The whole idea behind The Evil album in which that song is from... the idea is I need



going to get me there. It's me having confidence in my own ability to become a big artist. I want that and it's showing my hunger for that.

**RRX:** Well you've got a lot of good people in your camp that's for sure. That's going to help you out. A lot of people don't have that to start out with. I think even without the camp, you probably could still reach those goals but it doesn't hurt. How long have you been doing music?

**NTSG:** I've been doing music professionally now for about five or six years.

**RRX:** What inspires you?

NTSG: 100% my father. I was basically a student of hip hop since forever. pletely get it. I remember my Dad throughout my childhood showing me the classics. I understand old school, a little bit. I'm not a huge listener of old school but I do understand it. I used to listen to Biggie, Nas, Busta Rhymes, obviously

money and I need it now. My talent is X and all of those guys. I love their mu- happy when people are doing some- changed drastically. It's not carelessly sic, I used to have it on repeat all of the time. As a kid I would be in my room and I would walk over to my Dad's room as he was recording his music. I thought it was fire. But I never started until about 2017, that's when I actually started writing music. My Dad kept telling me "you can do it!." He saw my potential and I just kept going from there.

> **RRX:** Being a younger rapper I do want to thank you for not mumbling. stand each and every word that you say, very clearly. That's the old head in me talking again.

**RRX:** You're Dad probably has some of that old head vibe too, I'd imagine.

NTSG: Oh yeah, of course.

**RRX:** I just really get down with the bad messages in music. I'm always

thing creative, whether it's good or not, it doesn't really matter because they're doing something and I'm all about that. I support that but man... the messages that's kids are getting from a lot of rap music nowadays. Don't get me wrong we had a lot of that stuff too but... it's getting out of hand, people are getting hurt. I appreciate you, doing you're own thing and not following the leader. What's your take on that?

NTSG: For me personally when I Thank you for allowing me to under- look at that kind of music, I usually just leave it alone. As an artist I stay in my own lane and not try to ruffle any feathers. They are completely in their NTSG: Don't worry about it, I com- own right to make that type of music.

> **RRX:** 100 Percent, I agree they have the right.

NTSG: It's a freeform, it's an artform. The gang violence the gun violence and talking about drugs and selling them has been around for a long time but the way it's presented has

thrown out there but it's glorified. I don't get bothered by it that much because that's their thing. I don't really go out of my way to talk bad about any artist because they're just trying to get to where I'm trying to get to.

**RRX:** Anything you'd like to tell people out there who are just now being introduced to you?

**NTSG:** Everything does not sound like 'Scotch' or The Evil album. My newest album "Caught in a Web and Smiling" is a complete R&B project. It's all love music. The Falling In Winters Detour album looks into the dark and dreary world of being alone, isolated and it's not all hip hop. Not everything I do is hip hop, so there's bound to be something you like.

RRX: I think so.





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#### **BY LIAM SWEENY**

et's talk egos. In promoting your- Urine start up? Where was that first self as an artist, you have to have an ego, even if you don't have one. You have to promote yourself as a good time. But take this to an extreme, and you're arrogant. But if you start with the premise that you suck, you can take that three miles beyond the limit.

So URINE is the Capital Region's worst band. By three miles. Don't ask me; it's in the press kit. But actually, they're pretty kickass.

We connect with Jake Roberts of Urine and talk about grades of disgust.

**RRX:** So let's start with the a/s/l (for those unfamiliar with the old term, it means 'age/sex/location, and refers to seedy chat rooms in the 90s.) How did

jam, and how did you know it was going to be great (or awful) after that?

JR: So basically, we started as a complete joke. When me and Nick (Postal Malone) started the band the day after Christmas in 2018, we only planned on releasing one song and calling it quits. Actually funny enough we didn't even get a "real" show in until about April of 2022. Before that everything was done by a laptop and a microphone. In 2019 we played a couple shows at our friend Beej's shed, where it was literally me behind a laptop playing the instrumentals, and Nick and Breo (Piss Barnes) doing vocals. Our first actual show was for a friend's wedding

when we finally had our true lineup that has stuck around since: Me on drums, Nick on vocals, Breo on bass, and Stephen (Shred Durst) on guitar. We also have our secret sexy member Frank Cogliando (Dank Sinatra) on vocals as well, but the man is super busy and our practice schedules suck just as much as we do, so he hasn't played live with us yet, but you can hear him on recordings. We knew it was going to be the worst thing on the planet after we started our first EP, we were too poor to afford any good guitar plugins, so I used a cheap cello plugin and free drum samples, just added a bunch of distortion to the cello and called it a day. Easily the first EP is the hardest to listen to, as its badly

mixed, bad writing and horrible quality, but it was the setting stone of the suckiness that has become what URINE is today. Eventually we got better plugins, and nowadays we have actual instruments on the recordings.

Urine. Photo provided.

RRX: I didn't get drawn to urine by the music initially. I got drawn by the hype, which was exceedingly bad, and coming from Urine itself. You all made a good move with that, does it speak to the mood of the band in general?

JR: Basically yeah. See ever since last year there has been a bit more pep in our step to take things seriously. Being booked for shows almost every month for a year really set it into us that "Oh wow, we actually have to try to have

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a GRAIN of seriousness with this" but all in all we still know at the end of the day "Hey, we suck, we do this for fun, let's keep it that way" There is really not many arguments that happens between us because of that. Which is really cool because I always hear about bands having irreconcilable differences due to the angle they want to take their band. We basically let anything go, We have death metal songs, beatdown songs, EDM songs, there's Ska and Punk influences as well. Basically anything that someone wants to do in the band, we do our best to make it happen. In fact our guitarist Stephen came up with an idea for having a ten minute long, genre bending song about Nick's day, and we said fuck it, and recorded a ten minute long song. We don't like to be categorized into a single genre, which is probably where the whole "pisscore" thing came from to begin with. But all in all, we definitely all agree that we suck, and probably will forever keep it that way.

**RRX:** I'm watching your February show at the Hudson Station. It's pretty sick. I've never heard of Hudson Station before, and that might just be because I crawled out from under a rock yesterday. What can you tell us about that show?

**JR:** That show was booked by the absolutely amazing dudes Ben and Shea of TwoDeadHummingbirds. They really gave us a big start, when they booked us for a Troy Speakeasy show with Bonginator, The Idiot Flesh, Weeping, and The Sound That Ends Creation. That show really put our foot in the door as we were the ONLY local act on the bill and it was in a small house in Troy. The Hudson Station show was just as awesome. The underground scene has always been super supportive of us for some reason, just as any show we've do- present and past. We have the amazing ne under bigger booking names. We got to play with our good friends The Lunkheads (Who absolutely slap, they're comedic and hard as nails) and a really

dank band named Exitum. It was crazy to see how many people could fit into a small basement in Albany just to see some bands, and absolutely terrorize the place. Not to mention every Hudson Station show comes with a train conductor, free of charge, and there's Christmas lights. It's pretty rad all together, and we'd love to play there again soon (wink wink).

**RRX:** One of the things we're aiming for with our publication is to have a good mix of covering different kinds of music, and we want to make sure we're covering metal and hardcore. So seeing Hudson Station makes me think there are other underground stops in the local metal scene. Where should we keep our eyes out?

**JR:** Oh there are TONS of places FuzeBox and Empire Underground, but we also have Hudson Station, Troy Speakeasy, No Fun, and even the ones that are no longer with us like The Rat

Den and Caesars Palace. Our entire scene is built on the backbones of "Doing things your way" and the past couple of years have made that statement more true than you can imagine. Between Black n' Blue, 2DH and others. The scene is thriving and I'm personally just glad to be a part of it. After sitting on the sidelines for years and watching and such, this joke of a band now has some people ready to see us even out in Mass. If you told me 4 years ago that URINE would be playing live shows, let alone out of state shows, I'd tell you you're nuts. Support underground bands entirely, no matter where or when. Everybody starts somewhere, sometimes it's your neighbor's basement, your friends wedding, or even a birthday party. Take a chance and go see that band you've never heard of before. They could kick ass, or in our case. Suck so bad you yell it out to them onstage.







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# **Observations and Ramblings from a Cranky Old Guy** BY JEFF SPAULDING

s you read the title, there may be a couple of questions you are asking:

I thought he retired.

I thought he quit.

I thought he died.

Well, one and two are partially true. As for three, that's a pretty damn good trick if it was true, and considering Art Fredette's Freak Show approach to life, that possibility does exist.

The fact is, I needed a little break. After 46 years in Broadcasting, I was as crispy as a Branch Davidian. The last few years were, let's call it rough. After The Great Heart Bypass of 2020, the Health Gods kept knocking on my door saying call it a day asshole, you've ruined society enough. I wasn't listening, and while career wise I came back stronger, my body was starting to betray me.

Without details or crying over spilled milk, or as some would say sounding bitter, my job wasn't fun anymore. In part due to the fact that I kept having less co workers to have fun with, and those co workers weren't being replaced. If I was to sound bitter, I'd say I didn't want to be the last one on the Titanic. But since I don't want to sound bitter, I won't say that.

So, by the time this past January 27th came along, my old fat ass was ready to head to the sunset.

And then I took a break and realized I'm not ready to die just yet. I'm still "working," but I am my own boss, so it's okay to hate myself. I don't have a schedule. I don't have a deadline. My head is still in the game, as it were. I have gone back to the world of



ute to a non-profit organization that has an online radio station. I do so-called comedy bits with local air talent to show I can be just as annoying after all these years. Most important, I am spending more time, quality and quantity, with my wife, it's finally our time. Financially, we're in pretty good shape to do some things we always wanted to do, that's why I borrowed the Kama Sutra from my local library.

Above all that, I am back here, with pride. You'll continue to see my monthly offerings. Perhaps you'll hear me on

producing audiobooks. I also contrib- Art's little radio station in some capacity. After all, just because I am retired doesn't mean I lost my low resonant made for the airwaves voice. Hey, it's a step up since they won't let me be a Wal Mart Greeter.

> Oh yeah, one last thing. Art tells me this fine institution, radio, newspaper, five years ago, so the plan is working. concerts etc. is celebrating five years. That is a tremendous honor to be associated with such a great company. If you know me, you know I don't hand out compliments randomly. With me, I don't have to say, "That's a lovely beanie you're wearing Mister Fredette".

So, believe me when I tell you this young man and his crack staff (you know who you are) continue to crank it out and crank it up. Long before this thing became a reality, Art and I discussed his plan to take over the world. I'm proud to say there are more goose steppers than

Don't get your jockeys in an uproar over that last part, remember we're talking about a man who has sung the words, "She's Got a Cock."

To quote George Costanza...I'm Back Baby!

Be hearing you.





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# Bobby Fuller: The Forgotten Rock Star **BY JOHNNY MYSTERY**

n the mid-sixties, Bobby Fuller was living the dream as far as rock n' roll dreams go. He had a record riding high in the national charts. He and his group "The Bobby Fuller Four" were in high demand on the Sunset Strip scene in L.A. and were appearing regularly as the house band on several of the network dance party television shows. But on July 18,1966, he was found dead in a car outside his mother's house. When the police came to investigate, they almost immediately ruled it a suicide. Why would a guy with so much to live for kill himself? As you shall soon see the more you learn the circumstances here, the more something smells strange and I'm not just talking about the gas can found next to his body. This is one of the weirdest rock star deaths of all time and even though this case has been closed for over fifty-five years, too many things just do not add up.

Bobby Fuller was born in Goose Creek, Texas on October 22,1942. He and his family eventually ended up in El Paso in 1956 and like fellow Texan, Buddy Holly, he caught the rock n' roll bug from Elvis. He became a multi-instrumentalist while in high school but settled on guitar of course and formed a four-man outfit with his brother Randy, calling themselves "The Bobby Fuller Four." As most Texas bands from that era, they had the Tex-Mex flavor in their original tunes, several of which they recorded locally before heading out to Los Angeles in 1964 and

cords. Keane was the same cat who put Ritchie Valens on his label and later produced several surf records after Valens untimely death.

ets song "I Fought The Law", their biggest hit, "The Bobby Fuller Four"" also recorded several albums containing," Another Sad And Lonely Night", Never To Be Forgotten", "Let Her Dance" and "Love's Made A Fool Of You." All during this time they played the hip clubs on the L.A. strip. They also appeared regularly on shows like Hullabaloo and Shindig and also became the house band on Casey Kasem's dance show, "SHEBANG!!!"

Now as was bound to happen, Fuller got to experience the underside of 60's Hollywood but he wanted to know everybody that was frequenting the clubs. Pushers, crooks, hookers ext. There is even a rumor or two about run ins with Charlie Manson.... yes, that Manson but at this late date it's sorta tough to confirm. It's anybody's guess.

What we do know is what follows here. Fuller got a call the night of July 17th after which he told his mother he was taking her car to go out for a while. The next day his mom looks in the driveway to see the car is back. She went out and found Fuller dead on the front seat with a can of gas next to him. When the police arrive, they also find marks and abrasions on his body and call it a suicide and for some reason ditch the gas can. Strange it was not

signing with Bob Keane of Del-Fi re- kept as evidence. According to his It really has to be a coincidence that brother Randy, Bobby told him he was going to an "LSD" party with the trend setters in the valley that night.... how sixties eh! Perhaps that had something Along with their cover of The Crick- do with it. Not! The medical examiner assigned to the case found no sign of acid. Well...some witnesses in the neighborhood saw a suspicious white vehicle buzzing up and down the street several times. Nothing really came of that.

> If we're still talking about this so many years later, I would say it's a case that needs to be reopened. I'm not the guy who wants to point fingers but what's with the scrapes on his body? Sounds like it was dragged. What's with the empty gas can in the car? From what I've read, everybody who knew him said he was looking forward to the future and couldn't wait to get out on the road and tour. Did somebody really want to see Bobby Fuller dead??

Just one more thing, I almost forgot.

several weeks before this all happened, Del-Fi records owner Bob Keane took out an insurance policy on Fuller to the tune of 800K. I don't know what that is adjusted for our time but it's gotta be a lot.

Turning to the local spotlight, be on the lookout for a new band with some well-known names. Howard Glassman and Rob Skane fronting "The Men Who Loved Music." Spotted them playing around town in Troy last week. Solid guitar rock as you might imagine... Word from Albany rockers "Black Cat Elliot" is they are putting the finishing touches on their forthcoming CD as we go to press. Be on the lookout for that soon.

Also, The 5678's will be in town near the end of August at "No Fun" and I think it's time we learn about them next issue. See you then!



### **XPERIENCE** SUMMER IN SARATOGA

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he love of music is universal. The joy of happening upon a killer bass riff is the joy of a flawless execution of a passage by DeBussey. They both make you feel, they both give you a rush. But this is on the musicians' end. The music lover, the music listener, may simply be moved by both, or even talk over both.

Marcus Benoit has taught music for a good chunk of his life, while dedicating the erst of his life to, you guessed it, hopped from what to what? music. He is a wealth of the knowledge and feeling of jazz without being limited by it. And you might just see him

somewhere.

I sit with Marcus and we discuss decorating snare drums.

**RRX:** You play traditional jazz, Latin jazz, light jazz, blues, and crossover music. I imagine that having enough mastery to play one of these styles of music is a considerable feat, but having the ability to play all of them is beyond considerable. What style did you start with, and in picking up new styles, you

MB: I started playing what was called then soul music in the early 1970s in Germany as a 16 year old Army ered music by artists like James Brown, ilar, and if so, were they a different lev-Marvin Gaye, Brook Benton etc at the same time started trying to learn jazz and occasionally had some jazz gigs. And also occasionally doing blues and music by bands like Cream, John Mayall, even Led Zeppelin. When I came home the the US in 1973 disco was very popular and so did those kinds of dance gigs in the capital district until I joined the Air Force.

RRX: You played in the Air Force Field Band. I can only imagine the per-

brat. I was playing in bands that cov- band. Have you been in any bands simel? And did you learn how to play in the military, or did it sharpen your playing in a way that benefitted you later?

**MB:** The Air Force provided many fantastic musical opportunities for me. The different groups I played in covered a large musical terrain. Marching band, jazz big band, small jazz groups, rock band, concert band. The military paid for lessons so I had the opportunity to study saxophone with Joe Allard and a couple of piano lessons with Walfectionism that was demanded by that ter Bishop Jr. Besides the constant





performances it gave me time in those early years to practice and really focus on gaining a handle on jazz. The civilian world of music is a very different challenge. Mostly bar bands, I did a long stint playing jazz with Cole Broderick, wedding bands, blues/rock bands and of late a lot of rockabilly work. Finally two huge benefits I gained from the Air Force was the GI Bill which I used to go to college and enabled me to gain 3 years toward my public school retirement.

**RRX:** You've been in the public school system for over twenty-five years. That's a big accomplishment, and a bigger lift for society. But every- Up award (you're "the people" too.) thing is an education, including music. As a music teacher, did you ever find the lesson to be reciprocal? Did a student ever do something in a way, naturally, some technique, that you adopted yourself?

MB: What I gained from public school teaching is an insight into the challenges inner city kids face and that in turn helped me grow as human being. When one is dealing as a teacher with the problems the kids shoulder coming from low income and tough neighborhoods you have to be creative in your social skills and skills of discernment. Music for me was only a part of what had to be done each day. It takes time to find where you can teach in an authentic way and also consider what is most relevant to help a child succeed beyond music.

**RRX:** You play for a lot of events, corporate, weddings, and such. You've been in Cole Broderick's "Seasons of Saratoga" CDs, four of them. A lot of bands I interview go to show specifically to let their hair down. I imagine the events you play are different. What's a key difference between playing an event and playing a show?

**MB:** An event such as a wedding is about playing music that will fit the situation. Essentially dance music doing covers the audience knows. A show

doing original music or say a specific style of music, has the intention of inspiring the crowd that came for that. If its jazz then they are listeners. Last summer I played a Blue Grass Festival and that crown was interested in roots or Americana music. I try to wear the hat that is required. It makes it fun to have variety from night to night.

RRX: You were nominated for a 2022 Listen Up award, first of its kind, nominated and voted on by the people. Would you like to give any words to the people who nominated you? And have you any musician or band that you'd like to see nominated in the next Listen

MB: Well a huge thanks to those folks and I am truly flattered! As for musicians or bands. I could name several from our area. We have many great artists in the 518. I would nominate Mark Jamsgager leader and founder of the Lustre Kings for his excellent band leader skills, rockabilly guitar and vocal work and all the fantastic musicians he uses from night to night.

**RRX:** There is a difference between music as a creative outlet and music as a profession. It's an unpopular statement, but screwing up a note on an original song and screwing up a note on a well-beloved jazz piece are different. There are different expectations of the crowd. What advice, from professionalism, do you give to a band just going for a sound?

MB: The best advice I could give to any musician is practice, study whatever you are into, and get your skills up to task and a wrong note is not the end of the world. Maybe even more important than that is this quote from the movie Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure. Be most excellent to each other!...people will remember how they were treated, even if you do not like the scene of the night, no one likes a complainer.





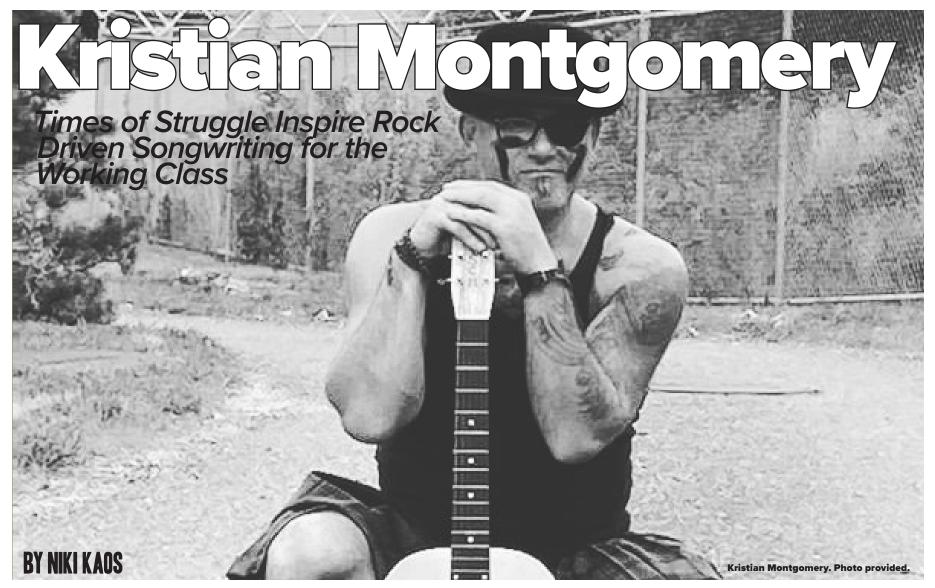






**BROADWAY TROY NEW YORK** 





ve been seeing Kristian Montgomery posting a new song almost every week on the social media sites, and they are all pretty darn good. Hardship and survival, life and love, the visceral emotions of these experiences are heard through songs inspired by storytelling. I figured it would be good to learn more about what is sparking this rush of creativity.

**RRX:** You have a lot of stuff coming up this summer. You've been working on your album. You've got some great shows booked. Tell us what's going on.

**KM:** June 28th is Rocking on the River opening for Neon Ave. And after that I've got a gig at Unihog in July 14th.

Hopefully my album will be done in

time for August 5th. We're playing at traveling blue collar bands to Albany to Pauly's Hotel with two Boston bands I'm bringing in. The first one's called No Detour. And the other band is called The Sleds, and they're tearing it up in the Boston scene right now.

The singer for No Detour is this kid Jake, and the first thing that kid ever it! asked me in his entire life is, "Hey mister, can I ask your daughter out?" And he was really small, maybe 12 years old at the time? But I always thought that he was such a funny kid. And I was heartbroken when he married someone else other than my daughter. But I still So talented! call him my son-in-law.

He's just a great kid. He's going to be opening the show. I'm bringing in

put on a show. And I'm hoping that some other 518 artists will come out and network with them. They'll bring them to Boston and we can start doing some gig swapping.

**RRX:** Gig swapping is great! I love

KM: I'm all about making friends. I know you played with Jennifer Tefft, and she's always been one of my favorite singer-songwriters in Boston. It was great to see her tour out here.

**RRX:** She's a favorite of mine too!

The album that's coming out in August, where did you record that? Tell us about your experience putting that

together.

KM: It was in Manchester, VT. It was night and day in comparison to my previous efforts. I worked with producer Joe Clap in Boston on my first three albums. I got really comfortable and used to the way we worked together. Joe is like a musical father figure with a very warm personality. Really good at going with the flow. Played guitar on my records. He ended up getting nominated for the New England Music Awards after my last record.

I was scared when I worked with Andrew in Manchester. His clients prior to me were Alicia Keys and John Legend and these really big names. When we first started recording, he said, dude,



I know you said you can only afford to do six songs, but we're going to do twelve. He played drums on all of them. He played guitar on a lot. The piano and everything.

**RRX:** So, he got really excited about your music then? It sounds amazing the preview stuff you sent me.

**KM:** He just had so many resources at his studio that I never had access to before. I mean, he has a bouzouki in his studio. I was looking at it, and I was like, can we use it on this song? And he says, no, I don't think it will fit. And I'm like, how about this one? I'm gonna write a damn song with a bouzouki in it. It's gonna happen!

**RRX:** That's so funny!

I have a question for you about your artwork. The imagery tells a story to me. It has a really dark side to it. Are you tipping your hand to the listener that they are going to hear this darker side in your music?

**KM:** Absolutely. You know, my first album I ever wrote, The Gravel Church. I wrote it without a guitar in front of me. Without any instruments, it was sixteen songs. I wrote it in Cellblock C at Plymouth County Correctional Institute af- this scene. ter I went through a nasty divorce. I'd asked for a child support modification so I could afford my insulin because I'm a diabetic, and the judge said no. So I paid my child support, and it's Massachusetts. I ended up having to be brought back to life at the hospital. And I sent the judge a message on FB begging for my life, and he threw me in jail for six months. It's a true story.

So a lot of my music comes from a dark place. I've had a really rough life. I grew up really poor down south and I struggled to be able to make art my whole life and have had to work construction jobs. Being a 6'2" 200+ pound dude, your body basically already sold you. You're going to be in construction.

**RRX:** But you're a fire fighter now, right?

KM: Well, I'm an engineer for a al

hospital. But I'm also a volunteer fire fighter in Wallingford, VT.

**RRX:** How cool.

**KM:** We do a lot, and it's physically demanding.

You know, I talk quite a bit in interviews about the music scene coming from Boston. I was nominated for the Boston Music Awards and the New England Music Awards, and everyone there I saw were these children of privilege coming from affluent families, and it was really hard to relate to them and to associate with them. People who had the privilege to make art without having to struggle for it.

And I went to the Capital District Listen Up Music Awards, and I met all sorts of people. It was like, holy shit! I think I'm home. Everyone here has a day job. Everyone here is working their asses off to make art. It was just such a refreshing change of pace. I've made a lot of really cool friends already.

**RRX:** I'm glad to hear that. And I think that post COVID our scene has come back with a renewed appreciation for each other. In general, I've been lucky. And there is a lot of support in this scene.

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me. Anything you want to tell our readers before we wrap up?

**KM:** We're all over the streaming sites and YouTube, so it would be great for people to look up Kristian Montgomery and the Winterkill band, subscribe to our channels and stream our music. Because the reality of our music world today is that we get more recognition with streams and views.

**RXX:** I think our readers will be very happy with what they hear. I highly encourage everyone to check out your music on their favorite streaming site, go check out your live shows, and get ready for your album release in August! I know it's going to be filled with the passion and grit that every great rock album is made of.



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### **Prog Rock Digest** by klyde kadiddlehumper

fter a lengthy hiatus – it is the triumphant return of Klyde Kadiddlehumper! Yes indeed – rising from the....oh, no – wait. Didn't actually rise from much further than my couch, but that was a story in and of itself.

Now, where was I....?

**Foraging** 

In the strictest sense, foraging is really a means of survival. Gathering food for ones' nourishment and survival. Now, we have all been warned about the mushroom hunting and the dangers if you are not a pro. I mean, well, kinda like the brown acid – it's your trip.

Among the many regrets of my lifetime has been to watch the rise of the digital age. At least parts of it.

We have all become used to going online, ordering a product and having it delivered to our doorstep.

While this is fine for car parts and de- is cool, or maybe not. odorant, it has led us down a rabbit hole in the music world. Spotify or Pandora and the like are great if you like Muzak and think that hearing songs that are in the same vein as what you 'like', well, whatever. We are all, from time to time, interested in the familiar. the safe, the creamed eggs on toast of the world.

But where is the fun in that?

Comfort zones have their place, however, music is not likely to do you any harm – unless you are Grumpy and just heard Zappa and thought we were being invaded.

And what has that to do with foraging? This household is occupied by an analog man in a digital world (excellent Joe Walsh record). There are 12" albums all over the place of all types. Rock, Jazz, Prog, Classical, Folk – anything we think

Now, if you don't have a 12" vinyl spinny make noise thingy, It ought be in your sights. And, it leads to foraging.

For those of us of an age, we understand the visceral and tactile nature of the album. The artwork, the liner notes, some special colors, a Styx album that is laser etched. All add to the process. Reading liner notes and having printed lyrics are so different than that the same thing in a CD. Grab a 12' version and the CD of a record you know well. Completelv different.

Then, there is the gatefold double album, or gatefold of a single record. These are a very special thing. I once went to a show, and the artist was doing signings afterward. I brought a double gate album - in pristine condition. He was amazed. Of course, we made certain he knew that

we had cleaned the leftover stems and seeds (wink wink).

So, put down your electronic device and streaming and find you local record store, or place that has records. Maybe get an account with Discogs and hunt around. Flip through bins and randomly pick something where the artworks strikes your fancy. Or a random bit from a bin you have never looked in. Forage around. Let the experience feed you.

My music department chair in college (wow the stories) had a philosophy. If you listen to something and don't like it, listen again. And again. Listen to it until you can at least understand and know where it is coming from.

So - until the next time - extend your comfort zone. What more progressive thing could you do? Klyde











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